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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7730
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 9044
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0270
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0289
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0486
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1864
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 1891
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 5743
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0549
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0725
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 0353
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 5999

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 004374

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DEPT FOR IO/UNP REINEMEYER AND NEA/ELA DONICK

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/18/2017
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [UNSC](#) [LE](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: JAPAN UNLIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO SPECIAL TRIBUNAL
FOR LEBANON

REF: STATE 129919

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)
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¶1. (C) Japan is disinclined to make financial contributions to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, although it is still considering a U.N. request to nominate judges for the tribunal, according to MOFA First Middle East Division Director Hideo Sato. His remarks were confirmed separately by U.N. Policy Division Principal Deputy Director Kentaro Fujimoto, who told Embassy Tokyo Political Officer "it would be very difficult" for Japan to contribute funds to the tribunal at this time.

¶2. (C) Sato, in a meeting with Deputy Political Counselor, reiterated that Japan recognizes the importance of bringing stability to Lebanon, noted that Japan had provided three police officers to assist in the investigation of the Hariri assassination, and said that the Ministry of Justice is currently considering a U.N. request to nominate judges to serve on the tribunal. He expects a decision on this to be made sometime next week. However, Sato continued, given Lebanon's relative wealth and Japan's tight budget situation, it is not possible to justify financial contributions to the tribunal at this time. (NOTE: When the creation of the tribunal was initially being contemplated last November, Japan raised concerns about the source of funding, expressing a clear desire to see it paid for by voluntary contributions. END NOTE.)
Schieffer